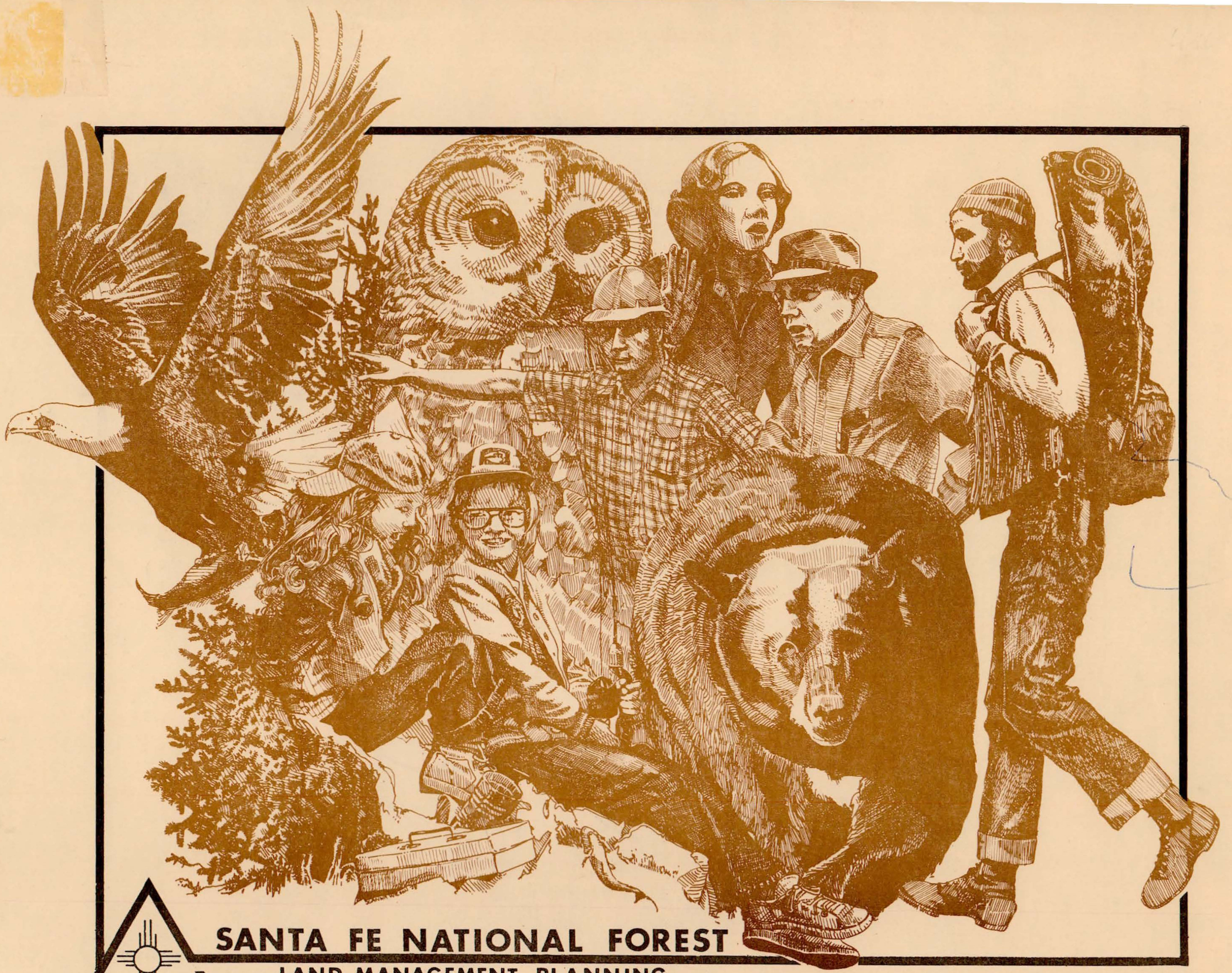
Thesis/
Reports
Santa Fe
National
Forest

LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Santa Fe National Forest



SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST

LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

L[redacted]ARY COPY
ROCK[redacted]. FOREST & RANGE
EXPERIMENT STATION

JAN 17 1979
ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

On behalf of the District Rangers, the Land Management Planning Team, and Employees of the Santa Fe National Forest, I would like to personally extend my thanks to you, the public, for your interest in the public workshops held recently in communities around the forest. Your input, which was derived from both the public workshops and letters received, has truly helped us in this important issue definition phase. The ideas and concerns you expressed are being addressed in two categories; those comments which are pertinent to the Land Management Planning Process; and those that are specifically aimed at organizational and operational issues within the management of the Santa Fe National Forest. This information is being returned to you in this booklet. I invite you to read the issues, see if your concerns are present, and forward any additional comments you may have. We also welcome comments from those of you who did not have the opportunity to attend the workshops. We hope that you may wish to become involved in this important Land Management Planning Process. Overall, your responses, concerns, and criticisms have shown that there is, indeed, an active "VOICE OF AMERICA".

Sincerely,

CZamora

CHRISTOBAL B. ZAMORA
Forest Supervisor

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS DRAW 200 PARTICIPANTS

A series of nine public meetings were held in various communities around the Santa Fe National Forest, between August 11 and September 8, 1978. Approximately 198 attended. Each of the workshops consisted of a welcome for the public and an introduction to the planning team, by Team Leader John Bedell. Resource Planner, Dan Winner explained the planning process steps, and explained the role of the Santa Fe National Forest as "lead forest", for the integrated Land Management Planning Process. Coffee and cookies were served to all participants throughout the workshops. Audiences then broke up into several small discussion groups and met with a group facilitator and a comment, or response recorder. All discussion groups were composed of individuals with various interests and backgrounds. The following questions were posed to the groups.

1A. What do you personally do in the forest or what activities/uses do you participate in?

1B. What are the important uses of the forest, whether or not you do them?

2A. If you could have it your way, what would the forest be like in 20 years? Describe the ideal situation.

2B. Please describe the situation as it will probably exist (practically). What will really happen in the forest in the future?

3. What do you see as the conflict or problems?

4A. What compliments do you have on the management of the Santa Fe National Forest, on a district of the Forest, or on the national level?

4B. What compliments do you have on the management of the Santa Fe National Forest?

5. Are there any additional comments or points you would like the Forest Service to consider in developing a Land Management Plan?

The entire audience then listened to all the other groups' comments.

The workshops concluded with the team thanking all participants for attending the workshop, and inviting all those interested to attend future workshops on the Land Management Planning.

Those who had not received brochures on the planning process were given one and asked to return the information-interest card, as future material would be made available to them. Also, everyone was asked to "tell a friend," so that the next public workshop would have as successful a turnout.

Pecos, 8-11-'78

Pecos High School was the site of the 1st Public Workshop on Land Management Planning. The meeting was directed by District Ranger and Land Management Planning Team Leader, John Bedell. Nineteen people attended.

The format used at all of the workshops was the same. After an introduction, people were divided into several small discussion groups. These groups were composed of individuals with various interest and backgrounds. They were asked questions concerning personal uses of the Forest, what they though the Forest should provide, and a personal projection of what Forest would be like in 20 years, both in an ideal and realistic sense. After a break, the groups were asked additional questions concerning conflicts and problems participants saw occuring on the Santa Fe National Forest, and if they had any compliments or complaints on the management.

Jemez, 8-17-'78

The 2nd Public Workshop was at the American Legion Hall in Jemez Springs and followed the basic format. Fourteen people were there.

Important uses were brought out by the discussion groups including timber products, recreational development, wildlife, water quality and grazing.

Important issues were developed and dispersed recreation, Christmas tree permit violation, law enforcement, ranger management, and fire hazard protection.

Santa Fe, 8-18-'78

The 3rd meeting was held at Sweeney Center in Santa Fe. Thirty-eight people came.

Important uses brought out were recreation and skiing, wilderness preservation, water, timber and grazing.

Issues included controlled use, private use vs. big business, developemnt of certain areas, more ski equipment development, and recreation vs. ORV use.

Las Vegas, 8-19-'78

A total of 18 people came to an afternoon workshop at the Sala de Madrid Hall on the Highlands University Campus.

Important uses included timber, grazing, recreation, wilderness, and water.

Issues that the Public felt were important were timber product potential. Access to public land, road & trail maintenance, wilderness use vs. other resource, and fuelwood demand.

Espanola, 8-25-'78

The 7:00 evening meeting in the Fuller Lodge attracted 14 interested citizens.

Important issues discussed were grazing, timber products, wildlife recreation, and water.

Important issues were ORV use, timber clearage, littering, recreation vs. multiple use, and employment.

Los Alamos, 8-26-'78

Two public workshops were conducted in Los Alamos at the Fuller Lodge. Thirty-three people attended.

Important uses mentioned were timber, recreation, fishing, hiking, ORV use, hunting, wildlife preservation, grazing and water control.

Issues were overpopulation vs. use and wilderness preservation, litter, multiple use management vs. roadless areas, and energy development on Forest lands.

Gallina, 8-31-'78

A total of four interested citizens comprised the smallest workshop in Gallina, New Mexico.

Important uses were grazing, timber, water, recreation, minerals.

Important issues included government control, sensitivity to local needs, short term and long term demands, preservation, and Forest regulations.

Cuba, 9-1-'78

Cuba High School was the site of the Land Management Planning workshop for that district. Forty-four attended.

Important uses brought out at this meeting included grazing, timber, recreation, water and fuelwood.

Issues the public felt were significant were grazing vs. recreation, multiple use vs. wilderness, evironmentalists vs. other land users, too many people, and the fact that there are now enough wilderness areas.

Albuquerque, 9-8-'78

Thirteen interested citizens attended out final Public Workshop at the Albuquerque Sheraton.

Important uses were recreation, wildlife, water, environmental education, and wood production.

Important issues discussed wilderness vs. other development, design of roads, water demands, timber management, and resource demands.

CONTENT ANALYSIS

During the week of September 11-15, 1978, a "Content Analysis" team was formed on the Santa Fe National Forest. Letters and meeting notes were compiled, along with written input taken from the public workshops. The team also utilized applicable comments and issues from the RARE II Process and other Northern New Mexico Comprehensive Land Management Plans. Content Analysis is a means of separating portions of responses into various categories so that the message or messages may be more thoroughly examined and evaluated.

The team captured comments in the public's own language, being sure that both the opinions and supportable reasoning for those opinions are kept together.

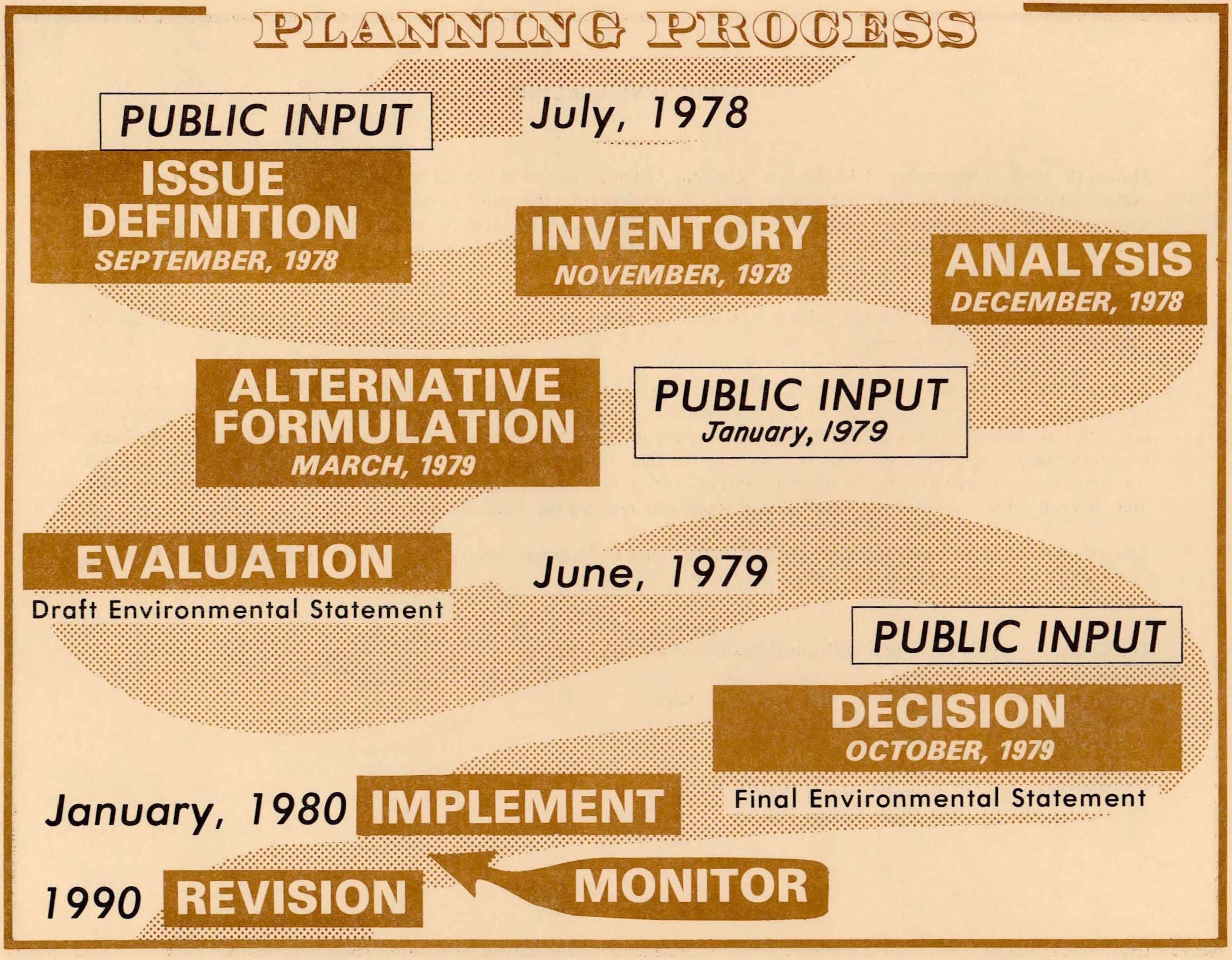
Each written response was recorded from the flip charts used at the meetings to color-coded paper. The responses were divided by question. Each quote was given an origin identification number, photographed, and the original filed. More specific categories for each question were developed and all responses were cut, pasted and placed in their proper category. Duplicate comments were screened for the one best expressing the idea, and a notation made of the number of identical responses. All comments can be traced back to the original. Most of the comments were pertinent to issues regarding land management planning. Several other responses addressed general forest management practices and specific areas.

The issue identification team and staff officers of the Santa Fe National Forest developed the Land Management Planning issues which were derived from the content analysis.

The Content Analysis Team that performed this important task were:

Allen Quintana - LMP Public Information Specialist
Margo Garcia - Coronado National Forest
Kathleen Clark - Safford Ranger District
Louis Odegaard - Jemez Ranger District
Bill Schrecengost - Tesuque Ranger District
Dolores Guerin - Las Vegas Ranger District

PLANNING PROCESS



PUBLIC INPUT July, 1978

ISSUE DEFINITION
SEPTEMBER, 1978

INVENTORY
NOVEMBER, 1978

ANALYSIS
DECEMBER, 1978

PUBLIC INPUT
January, 1979

ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION
MARCH, 1979

EVALUATION June, 1979
Draft Environmental Statement

PUBLIC INPUT

DECISION
OCTOBER, 1979
Final Environmental Statement

January, 1980 **IMPLEMENT**

MONITOR

1990 **REVISION**

THE PLANNING PROCESS

In November, an inventory of the capabilities of the forest lands will be compiled. An analysis of the issues and inventory will suggest future plans for forest management. With this information, the public will again be invited to suggest alternatives.

The Land Management planning team will draft an environmental statement by June, 1979. A final Environmental Statement based on the draft and additional public comments will be prepared in October, 1979. This final statement will be the basis of forest management practices for a 10-year period beginning January, 1980. During the implementation of the plan, careful monitoring will provide for a revision which is due in 1990.

The planning process is a series of logical steps that lead from identification of issues through forming alternatives to implementing a decision and checking for further concerns. We will rely heavily upon the assistance of the public in completing these steps. We are committed to obtaining meaningful input from the public and involving them to the fullest extent on the decision making process. We will not stop short by simply keeping people informed of our efforts. Rather, we actively solicit public assistance in an actual working relationship and provide a variety of avenues for you to become involved in.

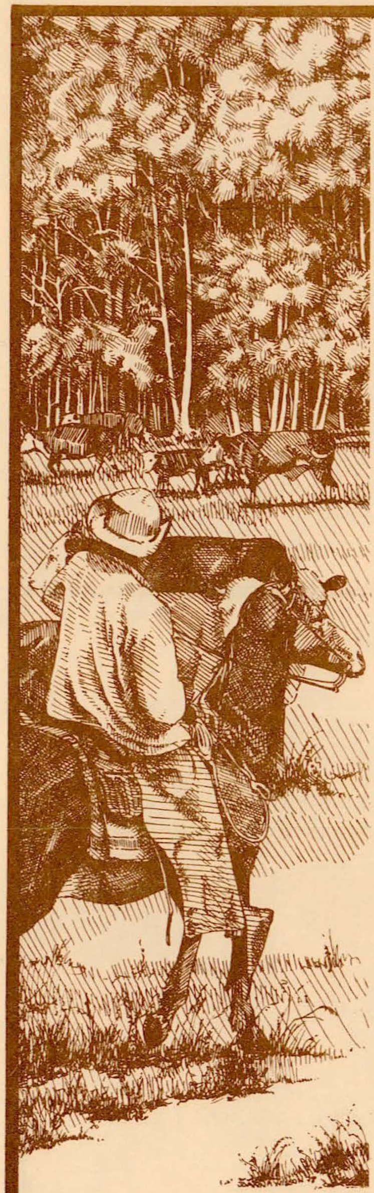
USES OF THE FOREST

There were more than 125 various uses of the Forest which were brought out at our Public Workshops. They ranged from gathering fuelwood to feather collecting. There were 4 uses which were mentioned at all of our meetings; gathering fuelwood, hiking, grazing, and camping. The five most important uses of the forest in response to question 1B, varied from one group to another.

Overall, the top 5 uses are:

a. Recreation
b. Grazing
c. Timber
d. Wildlife
e. Water

Other uses the public felt were important included public education areas on the forest, roads and access, wilderness, ORV use, forest products for the consumer, and law enforcement.



GRAZING ISSUES

1. Where, how, and how much grazing capacity should be allocated for permitted domestic livestock, wildlife, wild horses, wild burros and recreational user livestock.

   Improvements include stock tanks, fences, revegetation. Grazing capacity is expressed in animal months of grazing capacity. One AUM provides enough forage for one cow for a month.

2. How will grazing management practices affect other resource uses.

   Grazing management practices include grazing improvements such as fences, water developments, range reseeding, revegetation, and stock tanks etc. It also includes continuing and extensive grazing management systems such as year long grazing, deferred grazing systems and rest-rotation grazing systems.

3. Where and how much area should be designated and managed as threatened and endangered plant species habitat.

ROAD ISSUES

1. Determine the extent of the road system needed to meet resource and public uses.

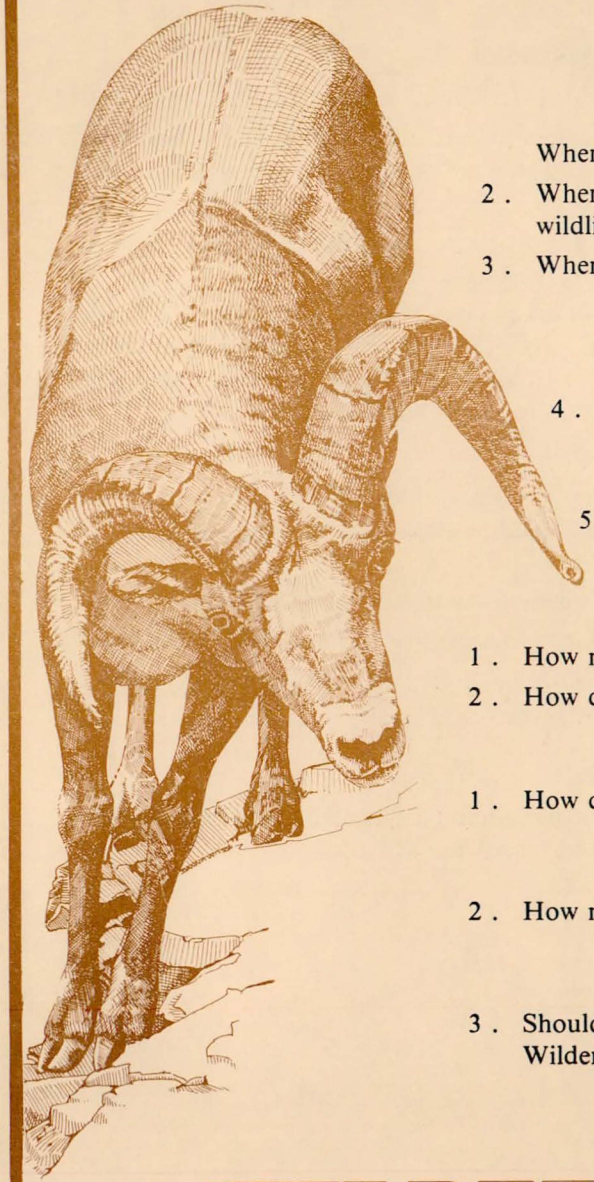
   Includes design standards and maintenance levels as well as safety factors and maintenance requirements.

TRAIL ISSUES

1. Determine the extent of the trail system needed to meet resource and public uses.

   Includes designed standards and maintenance levels as well as safety factors and maintenance requirements.

RANGE • ROADS • TRAILS



WILDLIFE ISSUES

Where and how much area should receive special emphasis for wildlife habitat management.

2 . Where and how much area should be designated and managed as threatened and endangered wildlife species habitat.

3 . Where and how much wildlife and pest control should take place.

Prairie dogs are an example of a potential pest which has the ability to expand their townsize drastically. Coyote's are an example of predators which might require control. Forest and range insects may also reach pest levels.

4 . How will wildlife habitat management affect other resource uses.

Includes management of streamside (Riparian) areas, elk calving areas and winter ranges as well as key habitat for various wildlife species.

5 . How many, what kind and where should dead trees (snags) be retained for wildlife habitat, utilized for wood products or disposed of for fire prevention.

RARE II ISSUES

1 . How much and where should land be allocated for wilderness use.

2 . How does wilderness allocation and use conflict with other natural resource uses.

WILDERNESS USES

1 . How does existing wilderness designation and use conflict with other resource uses.

Includes impacts on recreation, mining, grazing, etc. as a result of wilderness classifiaction.

2 . How much and what kinds of use should be allowed on various portions of the wilderness.

Includes people and livestock use which is limited ot the natural and social carrying capacity of the land to withstand certain levels of use.

3 . Should the San Gregorio Lake area be recommended for exclusion for the San Pedro Parks Wilderness Area.

The lake is a man made lake within present wilderness boundary.

WILDERNESS • WILDLIFE

RECREATION ISSUES

1. Where, how, how much and what kinds of developed recreation capacity should be provided.

   Developed recreation facilites include campgrounds, picnic areas and other areas containing specialized recreation facilities which are planned to accommodate a fixed number of people at one time.

2. How much and where are we going to provide for dispersed recreation including facilities needed to complement and enhance availability to these areas.

   Dispersed recreation includes many outdoor activities such as the following: hiking, driving for pleasure, viewing scenery and wildlife, riding horses, riding motorcycles, camping away from developed campgrounds, ski touring, back packing, photography, etc., which take place away from developed recreation sites.

3. How will recreation use affect other resource activities.

   Includes conflicts with timber harvesting, grazing, wildlife, etc.

4. Where, how and how much winter sport capacity should be allocated including expansion of present facilities.

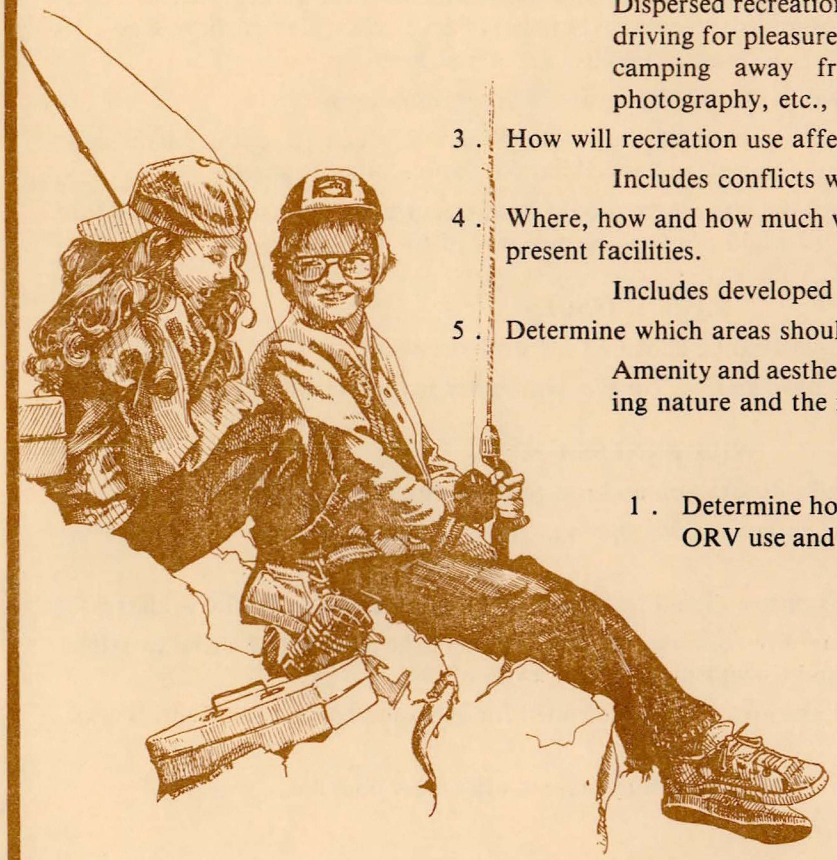
   Includes developed downhill and cross country ski areas.

5. Determine which areas should be managed primarily for amenity and aesthetic values.

   Amenity and aesthetic values are those values associated with viewing and experiencing nature and the natural beauty of the forest.

ORV ISSUES

1. Determine how many and which areas should be allocated for various levels of ORV use and which areas should be closed to ORV use.



RECREATION

LAND ISSUES

1. Where and how much private or other governmental lands inside the National Forest should there be acquired for National Forest purposes.
2. How much and what kinds of National Forest land should be made available for private or other governmental ownership.
3. Identification of road and trail right of way access needs and methods of procurement.
4. How many and where should potential utility right-of-way corridors be located.
5. Where, what kinds, and under what terms should special land uses be allowed or continued.

WATER ISSUES

1. Where and how much water should be produced.

   Includes management practices which can be oriented to increase, stabilize or decrease water production.
2. What water quality levels should be managed for and where.
3. How much and where should municipal watersheds be established with what restrictions.

AIR ISSUES

1. What and where are the acceptable levels of particulate materials generated from forest management activities and resource uses, both long and short term.
2. What levels of noise are acceptable, and where.

LAND • WATER • AIR

TIMBER ISSUES

1. Where, how, how much, and what kinds of timber should be harvested.
2. What effect will timber management practices have on other resource use.

   Timber management practices include tree planting, tree thinning, and tree harvesting operations.
3. How much, what kind, how and where should green fuelwood be harvested.

   Includes green pinon, oak, pine, etc.
4. The availablity and accessibility of wood gathering areas containing unutilized wood.

   Includes slash left from timber harvesting and thinning.
5. Where, how, how many, and what kinds of Christmas trees should be harvested.

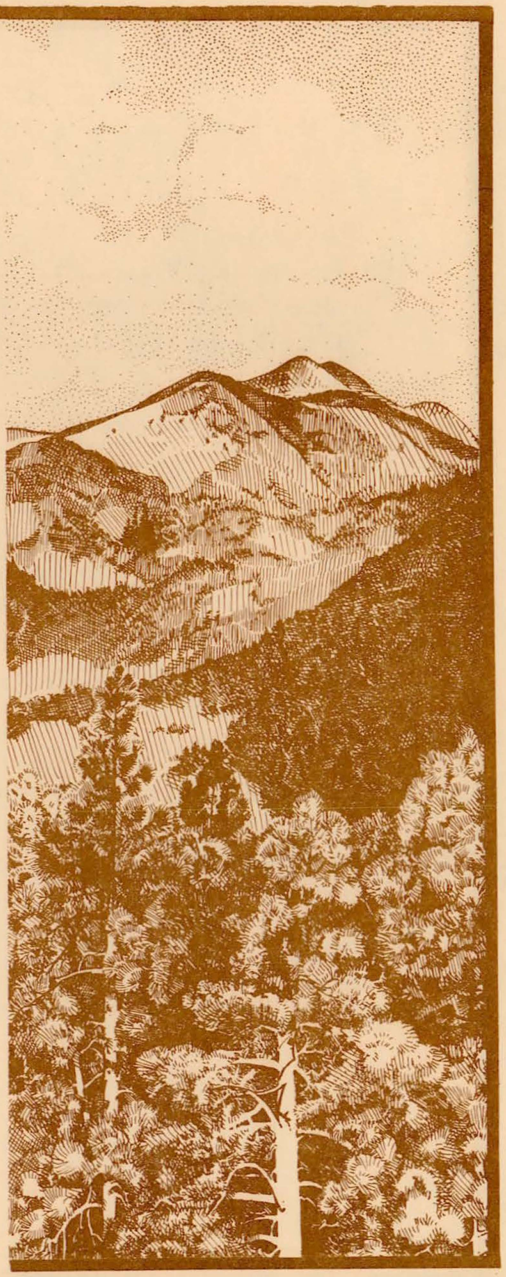
   Includes tree species of ponderosa pine, spruce, douglas fir, white fir and pinon.
6. Where, how, how much and what kinds of miscellaneous forest products should be harvested.

   Miscellaneous forest products includes vigas, posts, cores, boughs, poles, wildings or transplants, etc.

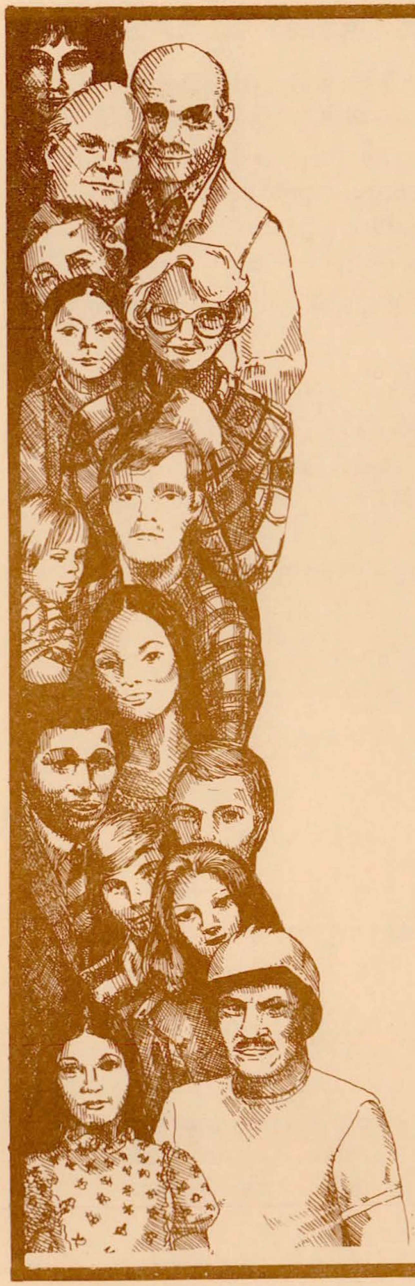
MINING ISSUES

1. Determine the environmentally acceptable means of mineral development.
2. Where, how, how much and what kinds of common variety mineral products should be planned for removal.

   Common variety mineral products include sand, gravel, rock, flagstone, pumice etc.
3. Determine the extent and locations where energy-mineral development should occur.



TIMBER • MINING



FIRE ISSUES

1. Where, how much, and what kinds of fire should occur.

   Includes wildfire, prescribed natural fire, and prescribed man made fire. Prescribed fire means fires which are allowed to burn within pre-established guidelines.

2. How will fire management affect other resources, uses and activities.

   Includes impacts of fire exclusion as well as fire burning on the natural environment. It also includes protection of private property and public safety outside the forest. Impacts include smoke dispersal, positive or negative benefits to wildlife habitat and other resources such as water, timber, range, and recreation.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUE

1. How much regulation, enforcement and where.

   Includes regulations concerned with vandalism; littering; life and property protection; and trespass such as illegally cutting Christmas trees, poles, posts, fuelwood, grazing unauthorized livestock and using areas of the forest without proper authorization.

RESEARCH ISSUE

1. How many, what kind and where should natural research areas be established.

   A natural research area is an area where scientific study of ecology may take place with a minimum of human interaction or interference with natural processes.

SOCIAL - ECONOMIC ISSUES

1. How should the local cultural, social and economic situation be provided for in natural resource management practices.
2. How do natural resource management practices affect the local socio-economic and cultural situation.

SUPPORT

ORGANIZATIONAL & OPERATIONAL ISSUES

1 . The issue is the conflict between timber operations and grazing permittees; the use of trails, fences, and cattle guards; the distribution of grazing permits, consideration of locals and Indians. Better methods of forage reproduction. Cattle tagging, site improvements.

2 . The issue is the evaluation of the fire organization. More and better fire protection and prevention should be considered; rehabilitation work after fires needs to be improved. Better public education of forest users during fire restrictions and closures.

3 . The issue is the confusion resulting from overlapping laws and regulations from various State, Federal, and local agencies with different goals and objectives; the need for better coordination with these agencies.

4 . The issue is the determination of fees for recreational use; the better management of dispersed areas; with increased recreation site supervision, and special-use site supervision.

5 . The issue is how to improve communication between the Forest Service and forest users; for fuelwood areas, fire closures, restrictions and inspections. Forest products, Christmas trees, new programs and projects. Improvement of I & E and VIS.

6 . The issue is the development of manpower programs, where and how many individuals are needed, and the distribution of resource work necessary for these programs.

7 . The issue is the improvement of timber sale administration; supervision of timber sales, closer monitoring of timber sale regulations. Improvement of timber marking methods.

8 . The issue is the consideration of environmental education sites for the public, nature trail improvements and additions, need for public awareness, and environmental awareness.

9 . The issue is increased law enforcement for hunting, fishing, poaching, recreational site regulations. The coordination between Forest Service and State/Local law enforcement officials.

10. The issue is an evaluation of the wilderness permit system; the consideration of eliminating day-use visitor permits and establishment of a more flexible method of wilderness user dispersal.

11. The issue is the need for more public involvement in dicision-making. Increase inform and involve effort. More structured meetings, workshops, etc.

12. The issue is the conflict between management of the forest by District Rangers and the regulations, and priorities set by Washington Officials; the retainment of Rangers and personnel for later periods of time before replacement or transfer; also, more field time is needed by Forest Staff. Too much paper work, bureaucratic bogging down. More women in managerial positions. Local consideration versus National Forest Objectives.

COME AND SEE US!

The following information is available for your review at the Supervisor's Office of the Santa Fe National Forest, 3rd Floor, Federal Building, Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Land Management Planning Team will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

National Forest Management Act - 1976
Resource Planning Act Publications
Federal Register - Land & Resource
Management Planning - National Forest System
Land Management Planning Regulations
Land Management Planning - Study Plan
RARE II Information and Maps
Content Analysis from Public Workshops

For additonal information contact:

Coyote Ranger District
Coyote, NM 87102

Cuba Ranger District
Cuba, NM 87103

Jemez Ranger District
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

Las Vegas Ranger District
1926 7th Street
Las Vegas, NM 87701

Pecos Ranger District
P.O. Drawer 3
Pecos, NM 87552

Tesuque Ranger District
1155 Siler Road
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Espanola Ranger District
P.O. Box Drawer R
Espanola, NM 87532

U.S. Forest Service
538 35th Street
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Forest Supervisor
Santa Fe National Forest
P.O. Box 1689
Santa Fe, NM 87501

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ST FEEDBACK

Much time, effort and information was utilized to prepare the issues presented here. The road is paved now for future work on the ***Alternative Formulation*** *phase. We wish to know if your concerns on the issues have been included. We, the Forest Service, want any comments you have at this time. Also, if you are interested in becoming involved in the planning process, check the box on the response card, remove it, and forward the self-addressed card with any "FEEDBACK" you wish to express. (no postage necessary)* ☐

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